IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants

: Ken HIRUNUMA et al.

Appl. No.

: 10/700,496

: November 5, 2003

Group Art Unit: 2872

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: 6278

For

Filed

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FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on February 11, 2004, Applicants submit herewith a copy of a United Kingdom Search Report that was mailed on March 10, 2004, with regard to family member United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 0326638.4, in which the United Kingdom Examiner cited the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 6,401,069 to BOYS et al., which issued on June 4, 2002;

International Patent Application Publication No. WO 03/042851 A3, which was published on May 22, 2003;

International Patent Application Publication No. WO 03/014798 A1, which was published on February 20, 2003;

United Kingdom Patent Application Publication No. GB 2 386 492, which was published on September 17, 2003; and

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. JP HEI 11-308568, which was published on November 5, 1999, together with an English language Abstract of the same.

Applicants also submit herewith a copy of a United Kingdom Search Report that was mailed on February 6, 2004, with regard to family member United Kingdom Patent Application No. GB 0325971.0, in which the United Kingdom Examiner cited the following documents:

U.S. Patent No. 5,783,299 to MIYASHITA et al., which issued on July 21, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,622,784 to OKAUE et al., which issued on April 22, 1997;

U.S. Patent No. 4,687,707 to MATSUO et al., which issued on August 18, 1987;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-340966, which was published on December 13, 1994, together with an English Language abstract; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,733,660 to MAKITA et al., which issued on March 31, 1998.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the United Kingdom Examiner applying United Kingdom rules to the United Kingdom claims are set forth in the United Kingdom Search Report.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the Form to

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the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the instant application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p), to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Ken HIRUNUMA et al.

Reg. No. 44,550 Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

April 27, 2004 GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C. 1950 Roland Clarke Place Reston, VA 20191 (703) 716-1191

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